

---

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



## San Benito-Monterey Unit

**CONTACT:** [Jonathan Pangburn](#)  
Unit Information Officer  
831-647-6257

**RELEASE**  
**DATE:** April 29, 2016

### **Burn Permits Required, San Benito and Monterey Counties**

**Monterey, CA** — Effective Sunday, May 1, 2016, CAL FIRE will require a CAL FIRE burn permit for any outdoor open burning in the State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) under contract with CAL FIRE, in San Benito and Monterey Counties. This includes all residential outdoor burning of landscape debris, such as branches and leaves.

To date in 2016, CAL FIRE has responded to 17 vegetation fires in San Benito and Monterey Counties. “The recent vegetation fires in San Benito and Monterey Counties are stark reminders of the importance of defensible space,” said Brennan Blue, CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit Chief. “Please protect your life and property, as well as the lives of firefighters, by creating and maintaining a minimum of 100 feet defensible space.”

Here are some tips to help prepare your home and property:

- Clear all dead or dying vegetation 100 feet around all structures.
- Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants, especially native species.
- Find alternative ways to dispose of landscape debris like chipping or hauling it to a biomass energy facility.

Residential outdoor, agriculture, land management, fire training, and other industrial-type burning may proceed if a CAL FIRE official inspects the burn site and issues a permit. Campfires are allowed in designated campgrounds, or in established facilities on private property with permission of the landowner and jurisdictional authority. Persons burning under any permit must also check with the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (<http://mbuapcd.org/> or 831-647-9411) for additional regulations and requirements.

Individuals who conduct open burning must keep the fire size within the issued permit requirements at all times. All open burning requirements include, but may not be limited to:

- Burning only on permissive burn days as declared by the Monterey Bay Air Resources District.
- Continual monitoring of the fire by an adult.
- Minimum clearance of at least 10 feet to bare mineral soil around the fire.
- Adequate control resources (tools, water, etc.).
- Avoiding burning on windy days.

Failure to maintain control of an open fire will result in the permit being voided; the permit holder may be held responsible for fire suppression costs, civil damages, and fines. CAL FIRE burn permits are in addition to any air quality control district and local fire agency permits. For information on complying with local burn requirements, contact the Monterey Bay Air Resources District at 831-647-9411 or visit the district online at <http://mbuapcd.org/>.

While the past few months have seen much needed rain approach average, the area continues to feel the effects of a multi-year drought. Vegetation remains drought-stressed, many water sources are still low,

and the rains have increased the amount of flammable vegetation. Half of the Counties of San Benito and Monterey are still classified as Extreme or Exceptional Drought, with the remainder in Severe or Moderate Drought. CAL FIRE Unit Chief Brennan Blue reminds local residents that open burning requires local land owners to do their due diligence to ensure they are meeting all conditions set forth by authorizing agencies prior to conducting an open burn. "Use caution with fire for creating defensible space. Remember, One Less Spark, means One Less Wildfire."

An address-searchable map of the State Responsibility Area can be found at [http://www.firepreventionfee.org/srviewer\\_launch.php](http://www.firepreventionfee.org/srviewer_launch.php).

For additional information on preparing for and preventing wildfires visit [www.ReadyForWildfire.org](http://www.ReadyForWildfire.org).

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CALFIREBEU](https://www.facebook.com/CALFIREBEU)

Follow us on Twitter [@CALFIREBEU](https://twitter.com/CALFIREBEU)

###

MEDIA ONLY For further information on CAL FIRE's response to incidents in San Benito and Monterey Counties, please contact the San Benito-Monterey Unit Public Information Officer at (831) 647-6257 or [BEU.PIO@fire.ca.gov](mailto:BEU.PIO@fire.ca.gov).